

October 12, 2017

By Electronic Filing – Notice of *Ex Parte* Communication

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: *Broadband-Enabled Health Care Solutions* – GN Docket No. 16-46;
Rural Health Care Support Mechanism – WC Docket No. 02-60;
Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service – WC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On October 10 and 11, 2017, Leonard Steinberg of Alaska Communications, Richard Cameron of Cameron Law & Policy LLC, and I met with Claude Aiken, Amy Bender, Travis Litman, Jay Schwarz, and Jamie Susskind concerning issues raised in the above-captioned proceedings. Alaska Communications reiterated its concerns about the resolution of Funding Year (FY) 2016 rural health care (RHC) funding requests, the likelihood of an even greater – substantially greater – funding shortfall in FY 2017, and the detrimental and immediate impact this is having on the delivery of health care in rural parts of Alaska. Alaska Communications urged the Commission to begin crafting both near-term and long-term solutions to this funding crisis including, but not limited to, increasing the budget for RHC support, reducing delays in processing funding requests, and updating the rules to accommodate advanced service delivery.

Please direct any questions concerning this matter to me.

Respectfully submitted,



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